2008 - Sept

Toni Woolsey.....Artist

Trail Creek Tavern Museum

P.O.Box 245 ..Trail,OR 97541

September 2008

Remembering Director Lee Thornally

On August 4, 2008, Director Lee Thornally passed away. Lee always had lots of good advice regarding construction projects and was prepared to help in any way necessary. He was dedicated to the Upper Rogue Historical Society and its Trail Creek Tavern Museum, and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Annual Meeting

The 12th Annual Meeting of the Upper Rogue Historical Society will be held on Sunday, October 19th from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the Trail Creek Tavern Museum. At the end of a short annual meeting, election of Board members will take place. Directors Clarisse Pitto and Bob Hawkins are running for re-election, and the position formerly held by Lee Thornally is open for filling. A meal will follow the meeting with Board members providing the food.

Museum Winter Hours

Winter hours begin October 4th at the museum. The museum will be open from noon to 4:30 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays through April 14, 2009. Contact one of the Board members listed on the last page for special tours for interested groups. Exhibits are set up within the museum as well as outside where the museum grounds provide a blacksmith shop, historic wooden wagons, a small barn where chickens and rabbits are lodged and goats in a fenced enclosure. Come see it all.

Blacksmithing Demonstrations

On Friday June 6 and Friday, July 18, Jim Collier and Jack Vaughan presented blacksmithing demonstrations to visitors at Stewart State Park. This is the third year they have taken the portable forge to the park. Feedback on their programs has been very complimentary and youngsters are thrilled when asked to assist during the demonstrations. They also demonstrated the blacksmithing process to over 60 people at the Lake Creek Historical Society in August.

Fundraising for the Museum

Two ways the museum is raising money during this time of non-existent funding from Jackson County:

1. The Upper Rogue Historical Society has a meeting place available for small groups (8-15 people) for a $5 contribution. A table and chairs are provided. Contact Jack Vaughan (621-2833) or Jim Collier (890-0695).

2. A small bookshop has been set up on the museum grounds and will be open from 2-6 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays beginning October 4th. Books are priced wondrously low.

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The following article is provided here with permission. It was published in the Southern Oregon Historical Society's November 1999 issue of its history magazine, **Southern Oregon Heritage *Today***. The article was written by William Alley former SOHS archivist/historian.

George Milligan

A Vision of Mercy

George Milligan founded Mercy Flights. *SOHS #16477*

In 1949 Medford auto dealer Art Winetrout was stricken with polio and rushed to medical facilities in Portland, The trip by ambulance took more than twelve hours, and the patient died four days later. For George Milligan, a young Civil Aviation Administration tower man at the Medford airport, this tragedy provided another example of the Rogue Valley's dire need for an air ambulance service. Milligan set out to make this dream a reality.

Mercy Flights, Inc., the country's first nonprofit air ambulance service, was organized that August, and Milligan began pitching his idea to anyone who would listen. Milligan's vision was to provide at-cost medical transport for anyone who could afford it, and at no cost to those who could not. By the end of the year enough money had been raised—almost a third of it from school-children—to purchase and equip a surplus twin-engine Cessna. Milligan and several other mechanics offered to donate their time for the plane's maintenance.

The new plane, christened "Rogue's Wings of Mercy," carried its first patient to Portland on February 28, 1950. At the end of its first year of service, however, the pioneering air ambulance found itself in a financial tailspin. Mercy Flight's

woes were solved with the creation of subscription service. For one dollar for an individual, or two dollars for a family, Mercy Flights would provide emergency medical transportation for a distance of 400 miles. Soon 4,000 subscriptions had been sold.

For the next forty-nine years Mercy Flights and its Good Samaritan flight and ground crews transported a steady stream of patients. On many occasions services were required in the midst of dramatically inclement conditions. The logbooks of Mercy Flights abound with tales of dramatic rescues in remote locales under weather conditions that would have deterred many other courageous pilots.

The inherent danger in Mercy Flights' selfless undertakings was brought home tragically on February 9, 1985, when a flight piloted by Milligan crashed just short of the Medford airport. All on board were killed, including Milligan, his co-pilot Dr. Henry Boehnke, a paramedic and a patient being brought to Medford from the coast. At the time of Milligan's death, Mercy Flights had safely transported 7,320 patients.

Today, Mercy Flights, after half a century of service, continues to transport those in need. Services have been expanded to include a fleet of ground ambulances, but Founder George Milligan's dream of providing swift emergency transport at the lowest possible cost still guides the organization he founded. It is a lasting testament to a visionary who lost his own life in the pursuit of his dream.

Milligan points out a flight destination to Mercy Flights. pilots and crewman in this 1950s photo. *SOHS #16411*

Come to the 12th Annual Meeting
Sunday, October 19, 2008
1-3 p.m.
Trail Creek Tavern Museum
Old Highway 62
Short Meeting.....Food Provided

Membership Application

Categories

$5 Yearly, per person	$250, Donor
$50 Life, per person	$500, Benefactor

Name:_____

Address:_____

City:_____

State:_____ Zip:_____

Phone:_____

Email:_____

Date:_____

You can be a participant in preserving the unique history of our area. Active participation is optional, but most welcome. Circle the category you wish to join and mail your check with this form to the Upper Rogue Historical Society, P.O. Box 245, Trail, OR 97541. Thank you!

Upper Rogue Historical Society
Trail Creek Tavern Museum
P. O. Box 245
Trail, OR 97541

Officers & Board Members

The Board members are here for *you.* Please give any of us a call should you have ideas, thoughts, or suggestions regarding the museum.

President:	Jim Collier, 890-0695
Treasurer:	Jack Vaughan, 621-2833
Membership:	Bob Hawkins, 878-8029
Secretary:	Cynthia Wicklund, 282-8545
	Judy Vaughan, 621-2833
	Clarisse Pitto, 878-3055

The Board meets the second Wednesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. at the Trail Creek Tavern Museum, 144 Old Hwy. 62, Trail. All members are welcome to attend.

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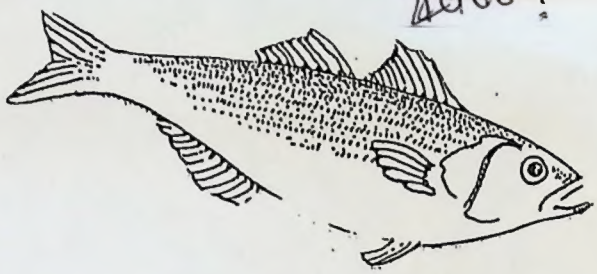
Delinquent members will find a reminder for their renewal in their newsletter. Please renew! It costs so little but helps so much! Yearly membership begins October 1. We look forward to hearing from you.

Trail Creek Tavern Museum is owned and operated by the Upper Rogue Historical Society.

2008 ?



Trail, Oregon

An old Indian trail that followed a creek and crossed over the mountain between the Umpqua and Rogue rivers was the reason for the name of Trail Creek for the small town. Located at the mouth of the creek on the Rogue River, this small town grew up and took the name of Trail.

Trail is an unincorporated rural area 21 miles north of Medford on Highway 62 along the Rogue River. The area's population is approximately 1800. The Upper Rogue area is well known for its hunting and fishing. Lost Creek Lake Dam is located 7 miles upstream from Trail and offers many recreational uses that include boating, a marina, R.V. park, restaurant, picnic areas, and biking and walking paths. Highway 62 continues on toward Crater Lake north of the dam.

Cole M. Rivers Fish Hatchery, one of the largest on the west coast, is located a short distance downstream from Lost Creek dam. Construction on Elk Creek dam began in February 1986 on Elk Creek Road 6 miles above Trail. Construction is currently halted, awaiting an environmental impact report.

Trail is part of School District #9, which includes schools in Trail, Shady Cove, Eagle Point, and White City. The school at Trail is Elk Trail Elementary, serving kindergarten through 3rd grade. Grades 4 through 6 are located at Shady Cove Elementary. Junior and senior high students attend Eagle Point High School.

The principal industries of the area were timber-related, fishing, and a small amount of ranching and farming.

The Trail Post Office—which celebrated its 100th birthday February 1, 1993—currently has 257 postal boxes and home delivery via two highway contract routes. One route delivers to the end of Elk Creek Road on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday; one route has 97 residences and the Trail to Persist route has 358 residences. Many years ago there was a school and post office at the end of Elk Creek Road and the post office was called Persist.

The first post office was built on the east side of the creek and was a 6' x 8' building between two big trees. The post office has been in nine different buildings and the present building was built in 1998. Postmasters serving Trail:

William G. Knighten	1893
Saparta E. Inlow	1896
Edward Ash	1914
Irwin Howe	1935
Eva Albert	1961
Barbara M. Falcy	1987